

Application No.: 09/364,731
Amendment dated: April 15, 2004
Reply to Office Action of: October 24, 2003

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as indicated. A complete set of the claims is included below, reflecting added subject matter (*underlining*) and deleted subject matter (*strikethrough*), as well as the current status of each claim. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently Amended) A telephone system to interact with callers in dial-up communication and of a type controllable by data related to cards, comprising:

a switching station including a switch processor capable of receiving call data from at least one dial-up communication source and a switching computer means capable of processing call data;

said switching computer means controlling said switch processor;

communication means capable of capturing call data received by said switch processor, said call data including automatic number identification and a personal identification number;

said communication means capturing call data at front side of the call data received by the switch processor and supplying said call data to the switching computer means, and capable of supplying processed data from switching computer means to the switching station;

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said switching computer means being capable of obtaining data for at least one parameter related to a card in addition to said call data for the switching computer means to act upon in processing call data and determining from said data from the front side of the call data and additional parameter whether the attempted call is placed by a caller in good standing in accordance with parameters for the card;

said switching computer means capable of disallowing completion of a call through the switching station if determined from processing of call data and additional parameter by the switching computer means that the call is not placed by a caller in good standing; and

said switching computer means capable of interrupting and terminating said call in progress through the switch processor if said switching computer means determines by data processing that the available account status of the ~~travel~~ card has been reached during the call.

31-32. (Canceled)

33. (Previously Presented) The telephone system of the type controllable by data related to cards as described in claim 29, further comprising a voice response means being capable of communication with said switching computer means and in dial-up communication with callers to the telephone system, and capable of providing an oral report of current account status to card users.

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34. (Canceled)

35. (Previously Presented) A telephone system of the type controllable by data related to cards as described in claim 29 wherein the switching station includes in addition an internal buffer capable of at least temporarily storing call data received by the switch processor, a conductor means capable of providing electrical communication of all call data from the switch processor to the buffer, and said communication means captures call data transparent to call data transfer from the switch processor to the internal buffer.

36. (Previously Presented) A telephone system of the type controllable by data related to cards as described in claim 35 wherein said communication means is electrically connected to such conductor means.

37. (Previously Presented) A telephone system of the type controllable by data related to cards as described in claim 29 wherein the communication means includes a port in the switch processor.

38. (Previously Presented) A method of handling telephone calls in dial-up communication by use of data related to cards, comprising the steps of:

providing a switching station including a switch processor for receiving call data from at least one source capable of dial-up communication with said switch processor by

use of a card and a switching computer means for processing call data received by said switch processor;

capturing call data received by said switch processor, said call data transmitted at dial-up including automatic number identification and a personal identification number;

delivering at least some captured data to said switching computer means;

supplying to said switch computer means at least one additional parameter related to the card to determine good standing;

processing in the switching computer means call data in relation to the received additional parameter data to determine if calls are placed and continued in good standing;

preventing connection of telephone calls if validation determines the call is not made by a caller in good standing; and

preventing continuation of telephone calls if validation determines the call is not continuing in good standing.

39. (Previously Presented) A telephone system to interact with callers in dial-up communication and of a type controllable by identification data, comprising:

a switching station including a switch processor capable of receiving call data from at least one dial-up communication source and a switching computer means capable of processing call data;

said switching computer means controlling said switch processor;

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communication means capable of capturing call data received by said switch processor, said call data including automatic number identification and a personal identification number;

said communication means capturing call data at the front side of the call data received by the switch processor and supplying said call data to the switching computer means, and capable of supplying processed data from the switching computer means to the switching station;

said switching computer means capable of obtaining data for at least one parameter related to the identification data in addition to said call data for the switching computer means to act upon in processing call data and determining from said data from the front side of the call data and additional parameter whether the attempted call is placed by a caller in good standing in accordance with parameters associated with the identification data;

said switching computer means being capable of disallowing completion of a call through the switching station if it is determined from processing of the call data and the additional parameter by the switching computer means that the call is not placed by a caller in good standing; and

said switching computer means being capable of interrupting and terminating said call in progress through the switch processor if said switching computer means determines by data processing that the available account status associated with the identification data has been reached during the call.

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40-42. (Canceled)

43. (Previously Presented) The telephone system to interact with callers in dial-up communication and of the type controllable by identification data as described in claim 39, further comprising a voice response means being capable of communication with said switching computer means and in dial-up communication with callers to the telephone system, and capable of providing an oral report of current account status card users.

44. (Canceled)

45. (Previously Presented) A telephone system to interact with callers in dial-up communication and of the type controllable by identification data as described in claim 39 wherein the switching station includes in addition an internal buffer capable of at least temporarily storing call data received by the switch processor, a conductor means capable of providing electrical communication of all data from the switch processor to the buffer, and said communication means captures call data transparent to call data transfer from the switch processor to the internal buffer.

46. (Previously Presented) A telephone system to interact with callers in dial-up communication and of the type controllable by identification data as described in claim 45 wherein said communication means is electrically connected to such conductor means.

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47. (Previously Presented) A telephone system to interact with callers in dial-up communication and of the type controllable by identification data as described in claim 39 wherein the communication means includes a port in the switch processor.

48. (Previously Presented) A method of handling telephone calls in dial-up communication by use of identification data, comprising the steps of:

providing a switching station including a switch processor for receiving call data from at least one source capable of dial-up communication with said switch processor by use of identification data and a switching computer means for processing call data received by said switch processor;

capturing call data received by said switch processor, said call data transmitted at dial-up including automatic number identification and a personal identification number;

delivering at least some captured data to said switching computer means;

supplying to said switch computer means at least one additional parameter related to the identification data to determine good standing;

processing in the switching computer means call data in relation to the received additional parameter data to determine if calls are placed and continued in good standing;

preventing connection of telephone calls if validation determines the call is not made by caller in good standing; and

preventing continuation of telephone calls if validation determines the call is not continuing in good standing.